



# Foundation for Restoration of National Values

## Newsletter

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### Dear Friends of FRNV,

You may recall that in November of 2008, during the National Summit organized in Delhi, eminent thinkers deliberated upon the subject of 'National Value Decline crisis' plaguing different spheres of National life.

Sports, an area which engages millions in our country, has recently joined the 'hall of shame' of corruption. Games are supposed to be about strength, speed, grace and gentlemanly behaviour. Not any more! The games seem to be less about the players and spectators and more about auctions, glamour, and off-the-field business control.

We, the spectators and players, need to introspect here. The games are fast losing the values they stand for. Each of us has to think about how we can arrest this value decline. Like the voter in the elections, each spectator has a role to play in this value crisis.

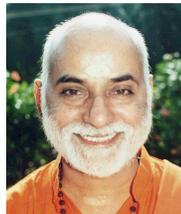
Otherwise, it is going to be 'game, set and match' in favour of corruption!

### Editorial Team

#### 'Spirituality' - Key to Enlightened Decision Making

[Excerpts from Poojya Swamiji's talk in New Delhi on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2010]

Any decision is the natural sensitive response to the needs before us. The needs can be immediate, close by or distant. They can be personal, familial, societal, national and global. Decisions can sometimes become emergent. Our mind and intelligence should be trained



for all these eventualities. And spirituality can do it. The whole process depends upon how well you understand and respond to the needs. It calls for attention, sensitiveness and concern to their magnitude and consequences. Your mind must have the ability and readiness to incorporate all allied factors before taking the right decision.

Thoughtfulness is indispensable for any good, efficient individual. When thoughtfulness grows sufficient depth, breadth and loftiness, it becomes introspection. In decision making, both thoughtfulness and introspection have to be enlightened.

What does enlightenment mean, in the context of decision making? In matters concerning you, an individual, the decisions are by and large simple. It is a traditional proverb that sleep and food are the individual's choice. Each can decide on it himself freely. Where the decision involves and concerns others around, an enlightened note is absolutely necessary. This means you have to get out of the usual shackles, like selfishness and the constrictions it brings about.

Likes and dislikes are something that possesses everyone right at the time of birth, as Bhagavadgeeta puts it.

Meet 10 persons, the mind will like, say 3 and dislike the rest. Why so? "Why" is a question for the intelligence to deal with, where the likes and dislikes will have to be subjected to a close examination and adjudged upon.

If a person you dislike does a wrong, the enlightened approach is to think of it as if done by one whom you like. Or else, prejudice will lead to a severe decision, often disproportionate, excessive.

Here is a classical statement for you all, to train your mind for enlightened approach:

**“Do not do what you want, and then do what you like.”**

Think about this deeply. To want carries a definite note of deliberateness. When you want something, it implies an insistence, even indispensability. This means your mind thinks very strongly about it. Not to do it will be intolerable for you. Such psychological entrapment cannot lead to an enlightened decision at all. So, be relaxed. Think about why you want it? Will it be approved by all those concerned?

In all crucial matters, put the opposite and think. What, if I do not have it? Why should I insist upon my want? I would like to have it, but in this I do not wish to displease and agitate others around. Of what use is something, when my possessing it will irk others? In any step you make, not alone you, but also the others should feel agreement and even joy.

So in deciding anything, it should not be any emotional entrapment that works, but something beyond and better. To ensure this, you have to sublimate your mind's likes and dislikes.

**Swami Bhoomananda Tirthaji**  
Inspiration & Guide

### **Ethics in Governance – Part 3**

Yet another important recommendation made by the 2nd ARC pertains to the appointment of an Ombudsman called the Rashtriya Lok Ayukta to enquire into all complaints against Ministers (except the Prime Minister), all Chief Ministers, persons holding office equivalent to a Minister and all Members of Parliament. Government's response to this recommendation is that the Lok Pal Bill is pending before Parliament and therefore no action is called for at this moment. Public have a right to know why the Lok Pal Bill has not been enacted by Parliament even though it has been pending for more than a decade.

Apparently, Government does not want to create any institution which will make Ministers and Members of Parliament accountable for their actions. However, Government have agreed with another recommendation of ARC to amend the Constitution to make it obligatory for States to establish the Lok Ayukta at the State level having jurisdiction over Ministers in the State Government, persons holding office equivalent to Ministers and Members of Legislatures. Here again, the Government has exhibited double standards. What is good for the States is not good for the Centre!

Yet another set of recommendations of the ARC pertain to permission to prosecute civil servants and removal of immunity of Members of Parliament for corrupt acts. In the case of civil servants caught red handed or where they are charged with amassing wealth in excess of known sources of income, the ARC recommended that prior sanction for their prosecution should not be necessary. It also recommended that Article 311 of the Constitution which provides protection to civil servants should be repealed while providing for protection to civil servants taking bonafide actions taken in public interest. Government have not accepted the recommendation for doing away with prior sanction in entrapment cases while stipulating that sanction for prosecution will be given within three months time. No reason have been advanced for rejecting the recommendation relating to repeal of Article 311 of the Constitution or removal of immunity for Members of Parliament for corrupt acts. This shows how entrenched bureaucracy and politicians agree to scuttle any move to make them accountable to the public.

There are several other recommendations of the 2nd ARC on Ethics in Governance which are no less important, but those discussed above are sufficient to highlight how utterly well meaning and crucial recommendations on setting up of ethical standards meet their waterloo at the altar of expediency and vested interests. Unless public pressure is brought on the Government and Parliamentarians, these recommendations will go the same way as similar exercises in

the past. One could think of a public interest litigation to spur Government to take interest in these reform measures. But think about it, why should citizens have to take recourse to the courts in order to make governments work properly. Aren't the Members of Parliament/Members of Legislatures elected by the people? If so, how can any elected government go against the will of the people or act against those recommendations aimed at making governance based on ethics and morality? Shouldn't Government of India bring these issues for public debate and ascertain public support for them?

At the end of it all, we are left with one nagging question. When Government has no intention of accepting such excellent recommendations, why does it set up the ARC and waste public money and valuable time of its functionaries? I leave you to ponder.

**Dr. Gopal Ganesh**  
**Vice President, FRNV**

### **Police Reforms – Current Status**

The Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, having visualized the long-felt need to replace the colonial Police practices and also follow the Supreme Court directives, has planned to constitute a Security Commission for all Union Territories and a Police Complaints Authority at each Union Territory level.

These steps of the Ministry lack full compliance with the Supreme Court orders in WPC 310/1996. Also, the Lt. Governor of NCT of Delhi has recently submitted a draft of the Delhi Police Amendment Bill, 2010 to Union Ministry of Home Affairs, which is again not fully compliant with Supreme Court judgement.

Ministry of Home Affairs has discussed the proposed amendments with civil society organizations working on Police Reforms. Further, the Ministry will be conducting sessions with Resident Welfare Associations in Delhi in the coming months.

Recently, the Kerala Police Bill, 2010 has

also been submitted to the Kerala Legislative Assembly with view to consolidate and amend the law relating to the establishment and regulation of Police. The proposal is partially compliant with Supreme Court orders.

FRNV feels that the Delhi Police, being administered by the Union Government, should set an example to the other states and UTs by implementing the Supreme Court orders and recommendations of Justice Soli Sorabjee committee.

### **News**

#### **Meetings on Police Reforms:**

A Meeting on Police Reforms was held on 12<sup>th</sup> April in New Delhi. Some of the Civil Society organizations and leading protagonists in the area of Police Reforms decided to prepare a draft of the Delhi Police Act for submission to the Union Ministry of Home Affairs. Participants included representatives from CHRI, Common Cause, FRNV, Sri Prakash Singh, Sri Kamal Kumar, Sri P S Bawa, Sri Sankar Sen, Maj Gen (Retd.) J P Gupta and Sri B G Verghese.

Another meeting was held on 26<sup>th</sup> April in New Delhi to discuss Internal Security and other important issues to be incorporated in the proposed draft. Participants included representatives from CHRI, Common Cause, and FRNV.

#### **Poojya Swamiji on 'Decision Making':**

On 28th March, Poojya Swami Bhoomananda Tirthaji delivered a talk on "Spirituality – Key to Enlightened Decision Making" on behest of the Prakash Mehrotra Memorial Trust, at the Chinmaya Mission Auditorium in New Delhi. Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.K. Patnaik, Judge, Supreme Court of India presided over the function. Dr. E. Sreedharan, President FRNV gave the introduction.

Apart from enlightening the audience on

loftier dimensions relating to decision making, Poojya Swamiji also emphasized on the need to rewrite the Constitution of India incorporating the Spiritual Legacy and Cultural Heritage.

**FRNV and RobinAge:**

RobinAge is a weekly newspaper exclusively designed for children between 5 and 14 years ([www.robinage.com](http://www.robinage.com)). Towards value restoration in schools, FRNV has started contributing a column to RobinAge. Through this column FRNV proposes to reach out to the children about the need for imbibing values.

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*If you have any queries or feedback, we would be happy to address them. Kindly send them to [frnadmin@valuefoundation.in](mailto:frnadmin@valuefoundation.in).*